

Head Quarters Middle Brook 21st June 1777

Dear Sir

As the Enemy have taken their old Station between
Buenos and Amboy I think you had better remove yours
at Rocky Hill to which place I shall order the Continental
Troops of your Division tomorrow morning. You will take
your Tents and Baggage with you and your Field pieces ~~if~~
if you think proper. As I expect Gen^l Dickinson here every
moment I have delayed discharging the Militia till he
arrives, as I want to settle some certain mode of ap-
pointing them at proper places upon the shortest Notice.

From the latest advices the Enemy seem moving towards
Amboy, this must be with an intent to embark either up
the North River or for Philad^a. You must therefore endeavour
not only to procure intelligence from South Amboy and that
Quarter by your Scouts, but agree with some of the inhabitants
who are constantly upon the Spot to keep a look out and give
you information of the arrival of Transports in the Bay of
Amboy, the embarkation of Troops or Stores, and their sailing
either towards the Hook or up the River towards New York.
It will be of the greatest importance for us to get early intelli-
gence whether their intentions are northward or southward.

A person was apprehended some little time ago near Ticonde-
roga, he had an anonymous letter for you, giving information of
the strength of the Enemy in Canada and their intentions; upon
searching him strictly, a paper was found upon him from a
Major Kirkland of the British Army, of so suspicious a Nature,
that he was told the letter which he showed must be only a cover,
but that he must be upon some other errand, and was threatened

with the severest punishment if he did not confess. Upon this
he discovered another letter for you concealed in a casket with
a false Bottom. You have the letter enclosed, from which it
should seem that our Enemies are reduced to the pitiful shift
of trying the Arts of Flattery, Bribery and even intimidation.
They must be ill informed for they thought you commanded
at Henderson's.

Gen. Schuyler proposed to draw Mr. Lewis into a trap
by answering the letter as if from you, and I suppose endeavour
to get from him a true account of their Expectations, Strength
and intentions. I desired him, if he had not done it, to let you
know, not only as I thought a matter of that nature required
it, but if you chose any such thing should be done, you,
from your knowledge of Lewis, could give him some hints
for a letter which would carry the Air of Reality. I think
if Lewis could be brought into a correspondence he would fall
into his own Snare, but that cannot be effected while you are
at such a distance, for they will soon discover who commands.
The Anonymous letter contained nothing more than what I
take to be an exaggerated account of the Strength of the Enemy.
The Mepinger said it was delivered to him by one Robert
Shannon, you will please to recollect whether you know such
a person, for if you do not, the Fellow will probably suffer
as a spy, which I am inclined to think he is.

I am Dear Sir

P.S. Gen. Wayne just sends
me word that the Appearance of
Tents at Brunswick is very small
this morning from whence I conclude
that there has been a move last Night

Yr. most ob. Servt.

G. Washington



Ms. A. 9. 2. 1. 1. 1.

To
The Hon.^{ble} Maj.^{or} Gen.^l Sullivan
at
Sourland Mountain
Rocky Hills



Wm. W. Washington
June 1877